

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2012-222-E - ORDER NO. 2012-565

JULY 24, 2012

IN RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company –) DECLARATORY ORDER
Request for “Like Facility” Determinations) ON STATUS OF
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1)) TRANSMISSION LINES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the June 1, 2012, letter of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G” or “the Company”) requesting that this Commission declare the status of the replacement of the VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line and reconfigurations of segments of the existing Wateree-Denny Terrace 230kV and Edenwood-Lake Murray 230 kV Lines to be “like facilities” under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act (“the Act”). SCE&G asserts that the new line and reconfigurations of segments of existing lines constitute “the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility” under S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110(1) (1976), and that the new line and reconfigurations therefore do not constitute “construction of a major utility facility” under the Act, for which certification would be required. We agree.

The existing VCS1-Lake Murray 230kV Line, which consists primarily of H-frame structures, is approximately 18.9 miles in total length and is used by SCE&G to transmit electricity generated at V.C. Summer Nuclear Station (“VCSNS”) from the VCSNS Switchyard I to the Company’s Lake Murray Transmission Substation located near SCE&G’s McMeekin and Saluda Hydro Stations, approximately three (3) miles

southwest of Irmo, South Carolina. From there, the electricity is used to serve SCE&G's customers in the Irmo, Lexington and West Columbia areas.

The segments of the existing Wateree-Denny Terrace 230 kV Line and Edenwood-Lake Murray 230 kV Line to be replaced are approximately 4.3 miles and 1.0 mile in length, respectively. These segments consist primarily of H-frame structures and are portions of lines that run between major SCE&G system substations that serve electricity to SCE&G customers in Columbia, West Columbia, Irmo, Lexington and surrounding areas.

The Company states that it is necessary that it replace the VCS1-Lake Murray 230kV Line and the segments of the other two lines with "like facilities" within the existing right-of-way corridors in order to accommodate the construction of a brand new 230 kV transmission line stretching from the Company's VCSNS Switchyard 2 past the Lake Murray Transmission Substation to the Company's planned St. George Switching Station, near St. George, South Carolina. This new line will be known as the VCS2-St George 230 kV Line No. 2. The new line will run alongside the replacement line for the VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line, and alongside the replacement lines for the segments of the Wateree-Denny Terrace 230 kV and Edenwood-Lake Murray 230 kV Lines. The VCS2-St George 230 kV Line No. 2 is the subject of a separate application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity.

SCE&G plans to replace the existing H-frame structures, on which the VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line is currently located, with single pole, double circuit structures so as to accommodate both the replacement line for the existing VCS1-Lake Murray 230

kV Line and a portion of the planned VCS2-St George 230 kV Line No. 2. A segment of the existing VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line, which is wholly located within the project boundary of the VCSNS site, will be re-terminated from the VCSNS Switchyard 1 to the VCSNS Switchyard2 and, upon the re-termination, the existing VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line will be renamed the VCS2-Lake Murray 230 kV Line No. 1. The total length of this line, the replacement line for the VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line, will be approximately 18.7 miles, approximately 0.2 miles less than the existing line length due to the re-termination from VCSNS Switchyard 1 to VCSNS Switchyard 2.

For the segments of the Wateree-Denny Terrace 230 kV and Edenwood-Lake Murray 230 kV Lines, SCE&G plans to replace the existing H-Frame structures on which these lines are currently located with single pole, double circuit structures so as to accommodate both the replacement line segments and a portion of the planned VCS2-St George 230kV Line No. 2. The replacement lines for the VCS1-Lake Murray 230 kV Line and the segments of the Wateree-Denny Terrace 230 kV and Edenwood-Lake Murray 230kV Lines will not result in any significant increase in environmental impact of the facilities or substantially change the location of the facilities.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110 (1) (1976) states in part: “The replacement of an existing facility with a like facility, as determined by the Commission, shall not constitute construction of a major utility facility.” Construction of “major utility facilities” requires certification by this Commission. We have examined the descriptions of the replacement of the one line and the reconfigurations of the segments of the two lines furnished by the Company, and have concluded that these constitute “the

replacement of an existing facility with a like facility,” and therefore do not require certification. These lines consist primarily of H-frame structures, and SCE&G plans on replacing these with single pole structures, which will remain in the existing right of way.

The replacement and reconfigurations constitute, in our opinion, “the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility” under the Act, and no new certification is therefore required.

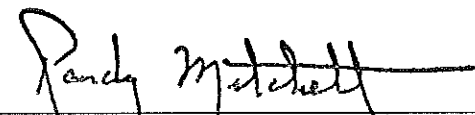
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



David A. Wright, Chairman

ATTEST:



Randy Mitchell, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)